ARROW COMICS

Ye Good Ol' Editors Page

WHO IS STARBURST ?

Hey there Gang, welcome to issue number 3 of ***FANTASTIC FANZINE***. We hope that you like the changes in our 'zine (easier to store away in those comic book protective bags, once read, don'tcha know).

Anyway we're getting our printing done by Mike Pierce A.K.A. ***Turbo Print*** located out of Monroe Michigan and we think they've done a great job. We hope to have all our Arrow Comics printed there, "just to keep pushing locale talent". Mike has really been a pleasure to work with and his proximity to Arrow H.Q. makes things all that less complicated.

We hope you enjoy our ***STARBURST*** cover by Doug Lamperski. Just who is ***STARBURST***, you ask? Well, while trying to figure out new ways of showcasing local talent, Randy Zimmerman of Massive Comics and I, came up with a generic superhero to fill our needs. In upcoming issues you will see more and more of him. You can join in the fun too. Just get together a three to seven page story using our ***STARBURST*** character (usually a generic fight scene with you own robbers, or villains will do). ***STARBURST*** has powers consisting of flight, superstrenght, and energy blasts. Don't worry about inking, lettering or writing it, unless you want to, we have other folks here dying to contribute. So here he is ***STARBURST*** go a head have fun with him, we will!

OH NO!!!

LATE BREAKING NEWS DEPT.

This issue of ***Fantastic Fanzine #3*** will be our last. We wish we could have continued but....

OH NO!!!

MORE LATE BREAKING NEWS.

November will debut the ***NEW FANTASTIC FANZINE #1***, this way everyone can jump on the Arrow bandwagon at the same time.

Thanks for your support and see ya in November.

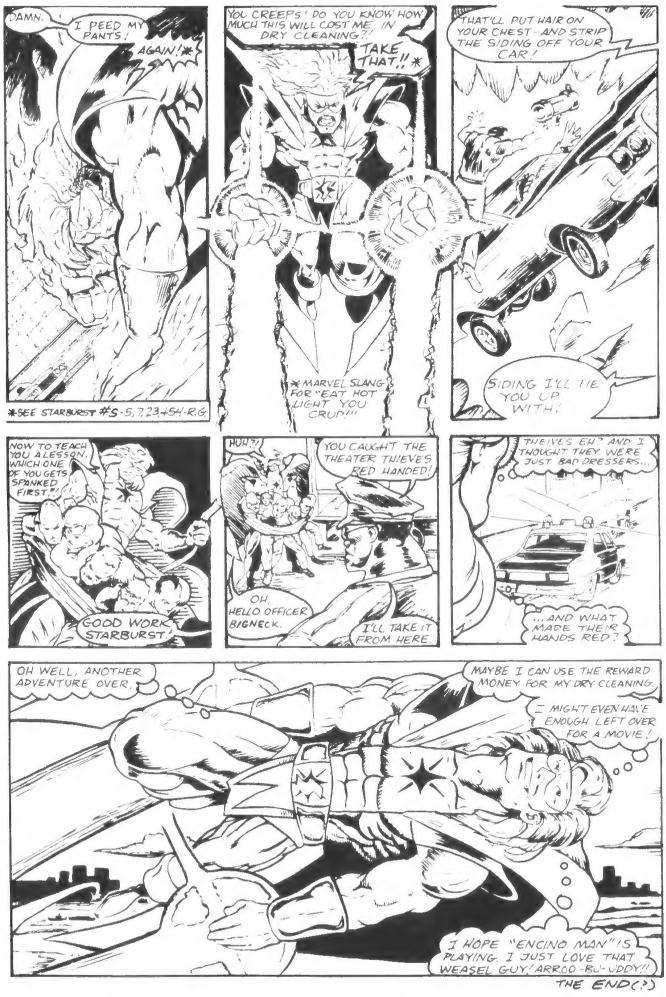
Fantastic Fanzine Vol.3, #3. Published bi-monthly by Arrow Comics.
37452 Huron River Drive. Romulus, MI 48174
All contents of this fanzine are copyrighted June, 1992 and are the sole property of Arrow Comics and it's contributors. This fanzine is intended to live on forever and always, so read on, continue to enjoy and collect. We will continue to supply you with plenty of bathroom reading materials.

Hey, Ralph, is this a rap??????

FANTASTIC FANTZINE REGRETS TO ANNOUNCE THE INTRODUCTION OF ANOTHER COSTUMED JERK ...
STARBURST
PRINCE OF LIGHT!
IF THIS BE AN INTRO...
EITHER I'M STANDING HERE TO GIVE THE FANS A BITCHIN' SPLASH PAGE...
..OR I'M ALREADY SO HOT I'M POSING FOR MY MACY'S BALLOON!
HOPE THEY HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR THE CAPE!
GADS! MY SHORTS ARE CREEPIN'!
THIS BIT OF EMBARASSMENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY: "WORDY" RANDY ZIMMERMAN. DOUG "PENCILMAN" LAMPERSKI. JASON "INKSPOT" MOORE. -AND- RALPH "THE BEWILDERED" GRIFFITH.
MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON US ALL!!

CHICAGO, THE WINDY CITY.
TOO BAD OUR STORY TAKES PLACE IN DETROIT.
RIGHT HERE, NEXT TO THIS BANK...
NCBANK
(SAY, DOESN'T THIS LOOK LIKE THE FIRST TWO INKABLE PANELS FROM THE MARVEL TRY-OUT BOOK?)
AT THE ULTRA-MULTI-MULTIPLEX THEATER.
THAT'LL BE $7.50 AND YOUR FIRST BORN CHILD.
WAAAH!!
THREE FOR LETHAL WEAPON THREE.
SORRY, WE'RE ALL SOLD OUT.
WE ARE SELLING TICKETS FOR THE 1:10 AM SHOW THOUGH.
DAMN.
THAT ONLY LEAVES "ENCINO MAN" - AND I HATE PAULEY SHORE.
GUYS, LET'S HOLD UP THE PLACE.
YOU HEARD THE MAN, FOLKS - THIS IS A STICK-UP!
YEAH, PUT ALL YOUR MONEY IN THESE PURSES!
AN' DON'T WORRY 'BOUT FITTIN' ALL THAT MONEY IN THESE "PURSES" THEY CHANGE INTO DUFFLE BAGS BY THE NEXT PAGE!!
SO FILL 'EM UP!!
AN' YOU CAN KEEP THE KID.
WAAAAH!!!

THERE SEE? IT'S THE NEXT PAGE AN' I'M CARRYING THIS BIG BAG FULLA MONEY! LIKE IT BUD?
HEY! THAT'S A BIG BAG!
GOOD LORD! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
TH-THAT MAN!!!
H-HE'S BALD!
...AND SHUT THAT KID UP!
WAAAAH!!!
WET PAINT
HEY!! GET THE @$%!:! OFF THE CAR!
HAIRCLUB FOR MEN!
LOOK AT THAT TUNIC! YUM!
EXCUSE ME FOR DROPPING IN...
...BUT COULD YOU DIRECT ME TO THE NEAREST BATHROOM? I HAVE TO WEE-WEE REAL BAD!
YOU'RE DENTING MY ROOF YOU DAMN SPANDEX FAGGOT!
FAGGOT?!! HOW DARE YOU PICK ON THE GAY COMMUNITY IN THAT FASHION!
THONK!
THIS SHOULD TEACH YOU SOME MANNERS YOU HOMOPHOBIC BASTARD!
*MARVEL SLANG FOR "WAP!!!"
...AND I DON'T LIKE YOUR BREATH!
SPAM!
JEEPERS! THE COPS!
HEY STARBURST! OVER HERE!: WATCH THE BIRDIE!!
FWASH!
UHHNG!!
*D.C. SWANG FOR "FWASH!!"


DAMN.
I PEED MY PANTS.
AGAIN!*
*SEE STARBURST #S-5,7,23-45+RG
YOU CREEPS! DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THIS WILL COST ME IN DRY CLEANING?
TAKE THAT!!*
*MARVEL SLANG FOR "EAT HOT LIGHT YOU CRUD!!"
THAT'LL PUT HAIR ON YOUR CHEST AND STRIP THE SIDING OFF YOUR CAR!
SIDING I'LL TIE YOU UP WITH!
NOW TO TEACH YOU A LESSON. WHICH ONE OF YOU GETS SPANKED FIRST?!
GOOD WORK, STARBURST.
HUH?!
YOU CAUGHT THE THEATER THIEVES RED HANDED!
OH, HELLO OFFICER BIGNECK.
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
THIEVES EH? AND I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST BAD DRESSERS...
...AND WHAT MADE THEIR HANDS RED?
OH WELL, ANOTHER ADVENTURE OVER.
MAYBE I CAN USE THE REWARD MONEY FOR MY DRY CLEANING.
I MIGHT EVEN HAVE ENOUGH LEFT OVER FOR A MOVIE!
I HOPE "ENCINO MAN" IS PLAYING. I JUST LOVE THAT WEASEL GUY! ARROO-BU-UDDY!!
THE END(?)

DAMIEN'S DEN

Hey,

Brian Damien here, frothing at the mouth with the latest stuff from "comicdom".

I saw it on the news last night, WM. GAINES is dead. I'm sure a good number of you pricks out there are thinkin' "So friggin' what?", "Who cares?" well, you pitiful Marvel Zombie, the person who should care is YOU!

Think about this; WM. GAINES' dad started "National periodicals" THE leader in comic books" in the thirties and forties. His dad was the one to finally make the decision to print the adventures of SUPERMAN, which changed the way EVERYBODY looked at comics. When M.C. GAINES passed on, his fortune passed to his son WM.

Now, from the way I read it WM. started E.C. comics with this money. For any of you idiots out there who don't know, E.C. stood (most of the time) for Entertaining Comics, which published a small line of not very memorable comics until WM. decided to look for something "different". You see he was tired of the same old concepts, the superheroes, the romance, and the funny animals. WM. saw that comics could be a whole lot more than "kids stuff".

This prompted the start of such classics as Weird Science, Tales From The Crypt, The Haunt Of Fear, Two Fisted Tales, and, of course, Mad. Along with these concepts WM. brought with him a small clan of "artist", all of whom have become recognized "masters" of the art of comics.

In a period of a half a dozen years WM. redefined the entire medium of comics as we know it today. Not just the idea that comics can be more than foo-foo guys dressed up in skin tight outfits shooting bolts at the bad guys, but that comics are an ARTFORM that deserves to be studied, and constantly redefined.

WM. was eventually stopped. The comic code authority went into effect to stagnate comics into the stereotyped "kids stuff" stigma of which still hangs with us today. WM. got around that by turning his number one seller, MAD, into a magazine (albeit a magazine that also went stagnate somewhere in the eighties), thus avoiding the idiotic authority (one that seems be have been designed for E.C. destruction), but he still lost the fight to help comics grow up, or did he? Think about this;

If WM. hadn't created horror comics, assuredly someone else would have, but IF he hadn't been oppressed comics definitely would not have evolved the way they did in this country.

Without the foresight that comics could be literate, and the quick suppression of that thought, would we have had the underground comic movement of the sixties and the seventies?

Would so many companies in the fifties have tried to copy him with horror comics of there own (of which Marvel, Atlas-Timely at the time, survived the stagnate fifties by doing childish variations of his themes), or the wonderful Warren Magazines of the sixties and seventies (which were THE training ground, and reading material, for a large number of the pros we idolize today)?

Would comics have eventually been recognized as "pop art" in the sixties (something again that kept Marvel in business during their early years of superheroing), eventually leading up to the artistic level today.

And, perhaps most importantly, how many retailers do you think would be in existence if these comics weren't created, or if the domino wasn't pushed back in the E.C. era to create all of this?

Yes, you stupid Marvel Zombies, WM. meant A HELL OF A LOT MORE to comics as we know it than the Liefields' and Adams'es of today. You should feel a small bit of sorrow that he is gone, because I can assure you that without him you wouldn't have your X-Forces and your Images, at least not in the form that you see them today.

Genius like that doesn't come along everyday. Hell, I get pissed just thinkin' about what comics may have been like had he stayed in them and fought, but he got fed up with the system, and cut back to a magazine. I guess, at the time he didn't have much choice.

So, think about that, you friggin' Marvel Zombie, next time you think those comics in the past are oh, so stupid. Just shut up, read your Ghost Rider, and watch Tales From The Crypt on T.V. why don'tcha...

Now on to something even more depressing;

When this Turtle fad started everyone was happy-"Hey an independent makes the big time!" We didn't care that the Mirage Studios couldn't produce another hit (or even luke- warm) comic besides Turtles. We quickly forgot about such forgettables as Gizmo, Bade Biker, and Prime Slime. Hell, we were just happy for those Turtle Boys. They really had luck on their side.

Well, here we are after two movies (one hit, one embarrassment) with another movie apparently on the way (depending on which rumor you listen to), a cartoon series that is slowly but surely slipping in the ratings, and a black and white comic that's getting harder and harder to sell.

I think the Turtle is dying.

Comics were always at the front of this fad. Heck, we knew Turtles were hot a full four years before they hit the screen. And now... the big word I hear whenever I talk to a retailer about Turtles is "Dead"

So, needless to say, Mirage isn't making as much money as they used to. This brings the company to a point of desperation. Remember, this company has NEVER had another property go- even as far as an issue ten- let alone have another marketable property to sell. They were painfully learning that old cliche' "Never put all your eggs in one basket".

Cont' on page 19.

EXCLUSIVE FEATURES IN THIS EDITION

Jason's Jargon

WHATSUPI?

Unfortunately, there's not much news happening in comics right now so along with what news I do have, I also have a review of the Dark Horse publication Primal.

But first a word of advise : ***BODYCOUNT*** Get it. If you haven't already bought a copy of ***ICE-T's*** Heavy Metal debut, then your probably out of luck.

Because of the idiotic minds of the "The Powers That Be", ***BODYCOUNTS'*** cassette has been taken off the shelves at most record stores. Why, you ask?

Because of a song titled ***"COPKILLER"*** in which the lyrics describe a gangster that has been burdened with years of anger and frustration towards "The System" because of police brutality. He decides that since they will do nothing to stop it. Let alone acknowledge it's existence he will exact his own form of street justice.

Are the minds of these people so infantile that they can't reason out that this song is fiction (AKA not real) not something he is telling people to go out and do.

It seems that way to me. It's to bad things have to be that way and it really pisses me off to say the least. And with Bill Clinton's choice for a running mate, Al Gore, you might as well say good-bye to any form of artistic expression if they win.

Well I'm glad to say that I've been a fan of ***ICE-T*** since his first albulm and will support him and any others, not just in music but in all art forms that are fighting the stupidity we call censorship.

And the last thing I have to say on this subject is in the immortal words of the ICEman himself: fuckem.

Whew! Now that that's off my chest. Lets get on with the news.

*Effective June 30, ***JAMES SHOOTER*** former President of Voyager Communications Inc. Has left that company. Shooter left Valiant because he had a different idea of where the company should be headed. Because of his leaving, staff changes had to be adjusted. The new staff roster is as follows: Bob Layton -Editor-in -Chief. Barry Windsor Smith takes Shooters place as President

MILLENNIUM COMICS** has acquired the rights to publish ***IT! THE TERROR FROM BEYOND SPACE. The four issue color limited series will expand on the story from the 1958 classic. The original movie is said to be the inspiration for the hit movie ALIEN. Creative director Melissa Martin described the new series as "designed for today's fan's of ALIEN and Predator". The 32 page color comic is pencilled by Dean Zachary, Inked by Jim Amash, and colored by Marcus Rollie.

*DC is bringing back ***CONGORILLA*** in September. The four issue mini-series will be written by Steve Englehart with pencils by Neil Vokes and inks by Grendel Artist Jay Geldhof. It is priced at $1.75 and will have fully painted covers by Lobo Artist Simon Bisley.

*Arthur Adams teams up with Randy Stradley for the Godzilla color special #1, 40 pages in deluxe format will be published by Dark Horse.

*Rage will become an official member of the new Warriors in issue #26.

*Fan favorite artist ***SAM KIETH*** will do a brand new cover for the adolescent radioactive blackbelt

DC Comics

Jason's Jargon

hamster compilation of his work for that title when it was originally published. It will also feature an 8 page illustrated interview with Kieth. Cover price for the Black and White graphic novel will be $10.95. It will be published by Parody Press.

***TALES FROM THE ANIVERSE #4** published by Massive Comics will have a Cover by Gotham Nights artist Mary Mitchell. "this is Mary's first cover work ever published" said Randy Zimmerman" and we're proud to be the ones to do it". Tales #4 has a cover price of $2.25 and will hit the stands this September.

***PRIMAL**

PUBLISHER: Dark Horse Comics
WRITERS: Clive Barker, D.G. Chichester and Erik Saltzgaber
ARTIST: John Van Fleet
FORMAT: Fully painted, 64 page graphic novel

For some reason, after reading this book I experienced a classic case of deja vu. HMMN, lets see.

The Riven, a race of creatures that were the sole embodiment of fear, were driven into seclusion eons ago by man. After years of anger building within them, their chance to exact revenge upon their vanquisher's is finally fulfilled when a defense department experiment goes afoul.

As for the art, by the talented Jon Van Fleet, it is very reminiscent of Kent Williams in some parts and is extremely realistic in it's use of dark to present a Noir type feel. Although I'm sad to say it, so far all this sounds like, is a retelling of one of Clive Barker's popular stories, ***CABAL/ NIGHTBREED.*** I truly hope they can prove me wrong, when Dark Horse publishes a four part mini-series this fall that will conclude the story started in this graphic novel.

*Well, that's about it for now, Hopefully there will be lots more news for you next month, but until then, go out to your local video store and rent ***The Naked Lunch*** which has to be the weirdest movie since ***Eraserhead.*** It will definitely keep you thinking until next month's columns. And as always please send all comments, suggestions and comics for review to:

Jason Moore
1108 Morris Hills Pkwy
Mt Morris, MI 48458- 2526

FANTASTIC FANZINE

Publisher.....Sam Griffith
Editor/Writer.....Ralph Griffith
Writers.....Jason Moore, Brian Damien, Gary Bishop, L.E. Becker, Dan Sanchez, Randy Zimmerman.
Artists.....Doug Lamperski (Cover Artist), Brad Garneau, Jason Moore, Randy Zimmerman.
Art Directors...Griff, Griff & Friends.
All around nice guy...Eugene Perecki.

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Interview with cover artist Jim Lee of

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

MUSIC REVIEWS

CHUCK DISSERS : TUNE IN OR TUNE OUT

Well musk and radio fans last time out I talked about Z-Rock and how it was kicking Detroit's ass. It still is, stronger than ever and ballsier to boot. This time however I have some more good news, Howard Stern is in the process of obtaining a radio station to broadcast his syndicated radio show here in Detroit. This could be better than Z-Rock, or at least in its own way a hell of lot better than the rest of the talk shows in Detroit. Not that there are any good ones on FM only AM, and who listens to AM a bunch of old farts and prunes or jocks that thinks of nothing other than their straps. Or maybe the cheap heap that can't afford a radio, other than an AM, get a job and buy a good system to enjoy this shit. Howard Stern, for those stone age neanderthals who can't or won't update, is the crudest and rudest mouth to be allowed on the airwaves. There are also some areas he isn't allowed, bunch of pansy chikken shit liberals who are afraid of the truth or the opinions of others. Well this is one person who is looking forward to this aspect of radio. Howard Stern has a very big following in New York, Los Angeles, Washington and Philadelphia where his voice is heard and listened to, people who hate him listen, people who are repulsed by his breast implant remarks or his gay jokes toward good friend Richard Simmons listens to him, I bet even bible thumping god fearing wimps listen to him. It just goes to show that there is a little sin in all of us. Me more so than others but what the hell you only live once.

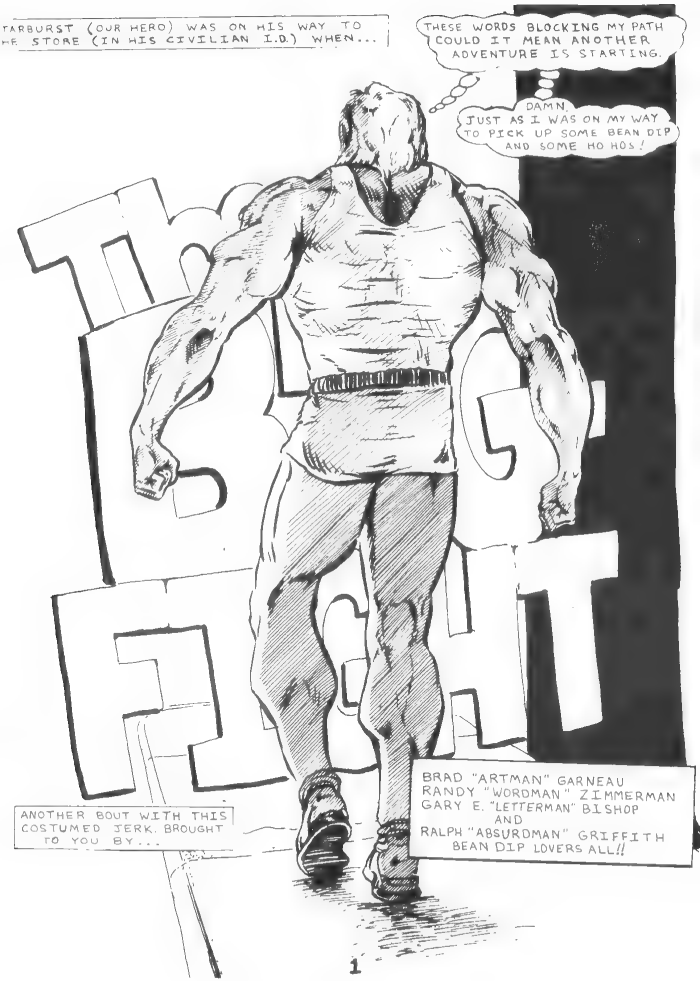
Over the past week Howard Stern fans have struck at Ross Perot on NBC's Today Show. Asking Mr. Perot " Have you ever had the desire to mind-meld with Howard Stern's penis ? ", and yes the question was heard over the TV for the show believes in spontaneity. I guess that rule will be changed soon. My biggest regret is that Mr. Perot did not answer the question. So till we hear his voice over the Detroit airwaves, heres talking to him and listening for fun.

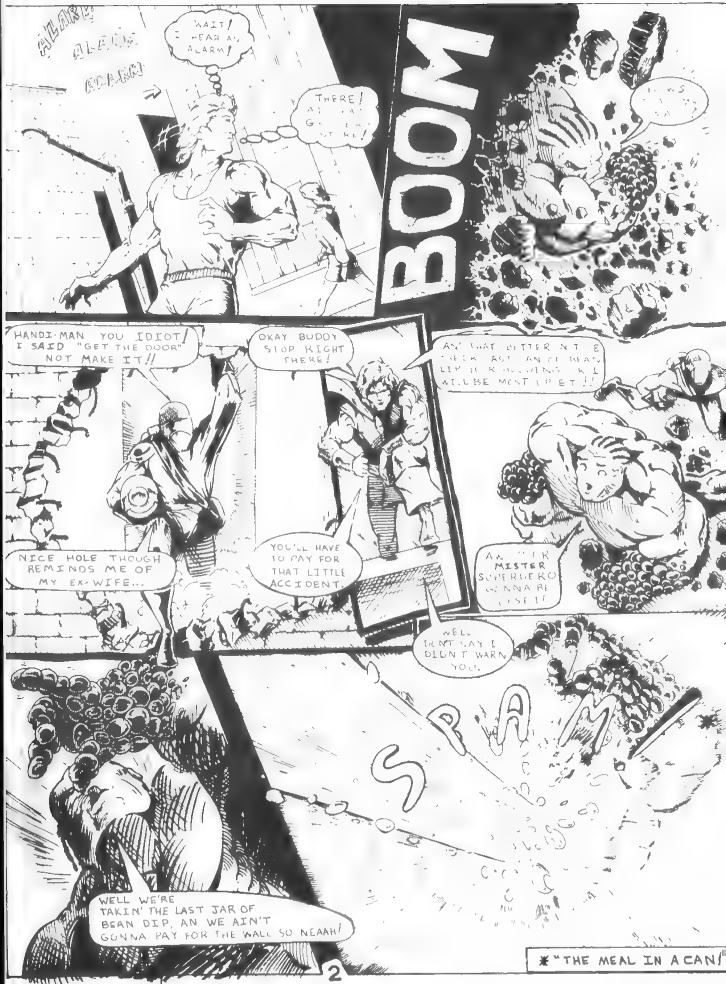
Back to Z- Rock and the Detroit wimps, my biggest gripe is the continual replay of the same songs over and over again. Get real, these songs are getting old even the good ones by Metallica, Ozzy, Quensryche and others are getting tiresome. You can only listen to the same songs so many times. Now we have the new Z-Rock contest, where if you win you become program director for two weeks, like your going to be able to make any big decisions during this time. But hell a free vacation is a free vacation. The morning shows in the Detroit area have only gotten worse. Nothing but sports, weather and news, now if I wanted to listen to this shit over and over I'd listen to an AM news station. I want to hear music on the radio when I'm driving. I've r eceived two comments on my first artkle so far, first why am I talking about this Poison commercial crap with good words and second why have I not commented on WNIC, easy listening or Classical Stations? Answer to the first one, yes they are a commercial band, one of the only good ones out there and they do have some good tunes. This gives them the thumbs up from me, now to each his own if you don't like them then don't listen bonehead. On the second question, If I wanted to, I could go on and on with this shit you listen to. If I felt the readers of this fanzine wanted to hear about that crap they would ask so until I hear from others like your boring sad ass I will stay off the subject. Wake up and hear the world for once.

Now on to music notes, Alice Copper is working on a new album, and says he will go back to his roots and visit Steven again for an entire album and not just two songs. For those of you who do not know Steven pick up Welcome To My Nightmare and get educated. Have you heard the new ELP tune (thats Emerson Lake and Palmer for the dolts out there) Midnight Moon, this is great just to hear from them once more in their original form. The song is not the best you could ask for but its good just the same. My biggest angst is that they did not let Carl Palmer let loose on the skins, since he is the best drummer out there. Yeah I know you people think that Neal Pert is the best but I don't and that's what matters. Check this tune out when you get the chance. The new Firehouse is kickin some major ass right now, and I would expect it to rise to a good high in the charts. Monty Pythoh has a new greatest hits album out covering all of their songs from movies and show. This is possibly a dedicated release to the lose of Graham Chapman to throat complkations. It's great, with Pythoh you either love it or hate it. If you hate it suck wind. Motorhead fans can expect a new release in mid July titled March Or Die. Ozzy will be joining Lemi on several tunes as will Slash of G-N-R. The band will be making a remake of the Nuge's Cat Scratch Fever, only the third this year, lets hope its better than the first two. We had Fudge Tunnel destroy it on their album " Hate Songs in E Minor " , they must have hated the rest of the cor ds for this is the only one they know. Then we had Nitro do it and do it pretty good but not as good as the Nuge himself. Good luck Motorhead. Megadeath will have a new release in late July called Countdown To Extinction, look forward to that one it should be killer. Faith No More has a new release coming soon called Angel Dust so far what I've heard it sucks, but so did their first three albums, pass on it.

More news of an old timer trying to make money off of the young generation of musk fans. Scott Gorns, the ex guitarist of Thin Lizzy has a new project called 21 Guns, but he doesn't want it to be compared to all of those others band with Guns in the title. Don't worry Scott you don't, this shit stinks. The album is called Salute, or 21 Guns Salute, LAMEit songs like Knee Deep, Walkin, Little Sister, Marching in Time, Battered And Bruised just don't cut it, give it up while people still respect you for what you did 15 years ago.

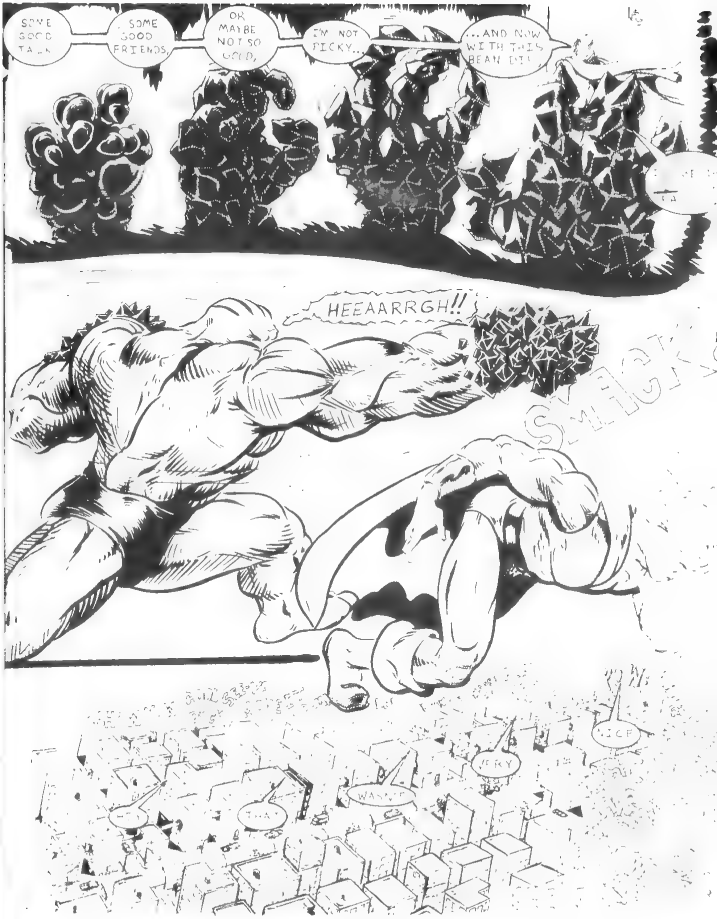
Continued on page 19.


STARBURST (OUR HERO) WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE STORE (IN HIS CIVILIAN I.D.) WHEN...
THESE WORDS BLOCKING MY PATH COULD IT MEAN ANOTHER ADVENTURE IS STARTING.
DAMN. JUST AS I WAS ON MY WAY TO PICK UP SOME BEAN DIP AND SOME HO HOS!
THE BIG FIGHT
ANOTHER BOUT WITH THIS COSTUMED JERK. BROUGHT TO YOU BY...
BRAD "ARTMAN" GARNEAU
RANDY "WORDMAN" ZIMMERMAN
GARY E. "LETTERMAN" BISHOP
AND
RALPH "ABSURDMAN" GRIFFITH
BEAN DIP LOVERS ALL!!


ALARM!
ALIENS
AGAIN!
WAIT! I FEAR AN ALARM!
THERE! AN ALIEN GOT IN!
BOOM
HANDI-MAN YOU IDIOT! I SAID "GET THE DOOR" NOT MAKE IT!!
OKAY BUDDY STOP RIGHT THERE!
NICE HOLE THOUGH REMINDS ME OF MY EX-WIFE..
YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR THAT LITTLE ACCIDENT
MISTER SUPERHERO
WELL I'M SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.
SPAM
WELL WE'RE TAKIN' THE LAST JAR OF BEAN DIP, AN WE AIN'T GUNNA PAY FOR THE WALL SO NEAAH!

*"THE MEAL IN A CAN"

OK, BUDDY YOU'RE NEXT!
HEY, YOUR PRETTY POWERFUL!
WANNA TEAM UP?
I'LL SHARE MY BEAN DIP WITH YA, WHAT'D YA SAY?
I SAY PAY FER YUR DAMAGES!
... AND AS FOR THE BEAN DIP...
"... IT'S OUTA' YOUR HANDS!"
FASTEST FINGER IN COMIC DOM!
DAZZLER EAT YOUR HEART OUT!
AND NOW, IT'S PARTY TIME!

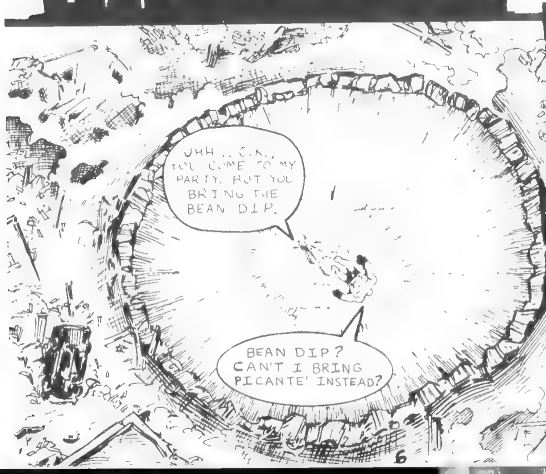

SOME GOOD TALK
SOME GOOD FRIENDS
OR MAYBE NOT SO GOOD,
I'M NOT PICKY...
...AND NOW WITH THIS BEAN DIP
HEEAARRGH!!
PICKY
PICKY
PICKY
PICKY

THAT TEARS IT!
SPLAT
SLAM

I'LL DESTROY YOU FOR RUINING MY BEAN DIP.
OH YEAH?

WELL I'M PICKED THAT YOU DIDN'T INVITE ME TO YOUR PARTY!!
TAKE THIS!

KA-SPLAM


UHH...OK, YOU COME TO MY PARTY, BUT YOU BRING THE BEAN DIP.
BEAN DIP? CAN'T I BRING PICANTE' INSTEAD?

LOOK, MAKE UP YOUR MINDS! I'LL BUY THE DAMN DIP!! GIMME SOME MONEY.

COMIC BOOK REVIEWS

LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT
" BLADES " ISSUES 32 - 34

BY : GARY E. BISHOP

This series has had several good story lines and several bad ones since it started. This story, " Blades " was one of the good ones. Writer James Robinson brings an interesting character into the Batman mythos, The Cavalier. He digs deep into the psyche of both Batman and The Cavalier, alias The Cavalier does not live to be seen again. The Cavalier was a Hollywood stuntman / actor who found excitement in the hero world however, he was blackmailed into crime and found excitement there as well. His demise was his own doing, and his last words struck Batman deep in the soul. The terrifying thought that if evil was to take Batman, what would become of the man he set out to be. There is also another story of a serial killer that Batman is trying to catch, and eventually does, that takes Batman from his normal doings and carries him over the deep end. His victory over this person is also a victory over his on ineptness at solving complex crimes.

Tim Sale does a superb job on the art of this entire series. His body language and choreography of the fight scenes are well laid out. His shadowing and story telling technic is some of the best work I have seen on this title to date. The art and story combined brings the story to a level of excellence. Pick this run up if you don't already read the book. I realize there are those out there who only read it if the artist or writer are someone specific, give this a try its good....GEB

JOHN CONSTANTINE HELLBLAZER
" ROYAL BLOOD " ISSUES 51 - 55

BY : GARY E. BISHOP

This story line is one of the best stories in this series since its premiere. The first aspect of the book that grabs your attention is the stunning covers by Fabry, this is the first work by this artist I recall seeing, but I can't wait to see more . The next best part is the story itself, written by Garth Ennis. It incorporates the royal family in the biggest occult fiasco you could dream of. One of the heirs to the thrown is delving into demon worship and becomes possessed by the demonic spirit of Jack The Ripper. His brother, while doing some pretty demonic stuff himself, asks John, who has been hired by a big wig in parliament, to kill his brother and be over with it. John thinks this is a hoot and goes on to insult the royal siblings red headed wife. No names are ever given but we do get the idea of who is being possessed. The art is by William Simpson and it helps make this story that much better. The end is expected but fun none the less. Constantine makes a fool out of the whole family and gives them one in the end, while making yet another demonic enemy. This book isn't called Hellblazer for nothing. Pick up this series and enjoy it, now more than ever with the things going down in the royal blood now....GEB

ECLIPSO
THE DARKNESS WITHIN # 1

BY : GARY E. BISHOP

This first issue special, of a two part story that crosses over amongst most all of the DC universe annuals, was an interesting set up for the story line. It introduces the origin of Eclipso at a new level and adds some very dark possibilities to the character. This one time questionable hero / villain has come up major villain. There is no more mistaking him for a hero, I realize that he has been a villain for the past few years, yet he always had the ability

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COMIC BOOK REVIEWS

to change. Now he is his own entity, actually he is 100 entities spread out over many areas. The story itself is well written by Keith Giffen and Robert Loren Fleming, who bring some heavy hitters into the very first issue. Lar Grand is brought in from the beginning and is quickly taken over by Eclipso and his power. I'm not sure this would have happened as quickly as it did, or as quick as the Creeper was to control, but this was one of my faults of the book. My biggest reservation of the story is that it follows closely behind Eclipso's battle with Starman, in his now defunct title. This and the fact that Eclipso will be going after Starman once more and Starman should be able to handle him (not, if you have read Superman Annual). Bart Sears artwork is brilliant and as stunning as ever, I just wish that he did not have to go over Keith Giffens breakdowns. This fact is seen in several panels as Keiths art style comes through more powerful than Barts. Overall this series could turn out to be one of the best to come along in a long while. Pick it up for a good story and great art.....GEB

REVIEWS BY L. E. BECKER

Last time, I mentioned that I would review a whole mess of VALIANT titles, as well as the new GREEN LANTERN: MOSAIC series. Since time does not permit me to talk of every VALIANT book, I'll be discussing two new VALIANT titles, before moving on to MOSAIC.

ETERNAL WARRIOR (VALIANT): This is a very well written story of a man, Gillard, that is as old as the Earth itself. "Gil" uses his "eternal" speed and agility to right wrongs and destroy evil. Jim Shooter is the story teller who takes a somewhat basic story premise and turns it into something extra-ordinary. This idea has been used in D.C.'s own books with characters like Vandal Savage and the Immortal Man. Yet, unlike D.C.'s older and stiffer approach of this idea, Shooter's sense of style gives it a fantastic quality that even took me by surprise.

ARCHER & ARMSTRONG (VALIANT): For those people who might not actually like the drama of ETERNAL WARRIOR, this title might be a better cup of tea. Archer is a twenty year old Hari-Krishna whose power is the perfect marksmanship. Armstrong is the younger brother of ETERNAL WARRIOR who has the strength of twenty men, yet never wishes to look for trouble, unlike Gillard. Jim Shooter, once again, is the writer that makes this oddball twosome, not only fresh and interesting, but very humorous as well. And if the storyline doesn't get you, then maybe the incredible renderings by Barry Windsor Smith will.

These two books are only a small sampling of what VALIANT offers to the comic fan. Unlike IMAGE's YOUNGBLOOD, which goes for the flash of the "artist", VALIANT develops the essence of the characters by the way it is written. Does this sound like a cheap shot at IMAGE? I really don't want it to, because many of IMAGE's artists are fine people. However, that is what they basically are: Artist, pencilers, people who draw. These guys should look at VALIANT as an example of how a comic book should be "written". It is not just the artist that makes the book, it is also the essence of the character(s), and how they are scripted. This leads to my last review of...

GREEN LANTERN: MOSAIC (D.C. Comics): At what seemed to be at first a very pale shadow to the regular GREEN LANTERN series, MOSAIC has exceeded my expectations. Instead of the regular "super hero" story that I thought would be written, this series comes close to the type of material being done for SWAMP THING and HELLBLAZER. The plot of the series consists of Green Lantern, John Stewart, protecting the planet of Oa, known now as Mosaic, due to the many different interstellar cities stuck there by an insane Guardian. The direction this series is taking is a very exciting, with many interesting plot webs that will make this series a MUST reading, if it is handled the right way. The art by Cully Hamner is a bit blotchy, yet, fits right into the mood of this quirky story. For those who wish a different type of Green Lantern story, this book is highly recommended.

Next time, SPAWN, (that is, if it actually comes out) and definitely ECLIPSO: THE DARKNESS WITHIN, and, of course, more of that snappy repartee that you've grown oh-so accustomed to. Until then, see ya (but I wouldn't wanna be ya)!!!

L. E. Becker

Damien's Den continued...

So in desperation Mirage began shifting gears in late '91. The companies' management attitude changed. They became an enclosed camp- with only friends and buddies being allowed to work for them. The news from folks trying to deal with Mirage, whether to place a new property with them, or to line up a cross-over of ANY type with them has always ended in the same method- a cold form letter (one source called it a "Fuck-off" letter".)

Now it doesn't take a marketing genius to realize that the number one thing that you DO NOT do when your hottest property starts to die is to completely cut off this property from any further outside exposure- and fandom especially. Restricting this exposure will, and is nailing in the coffin on the Turtles death.

Again, in desperation, Mirage has developed a radical idea to try to rescue it's slumping (plummeting) sales- the original team is back in hopes to re-infuse the property with the same unique "luck" that it had before.

Most retailers know another old cliche' that is coming to their minds as they are ordering this "return to greatness" and that is "Lightning never strikes in the same place twice". Watch for additional acts of desperation as Mirage slowly sinks lower and lower.

One final proof to you of what I say is true; Space Usagi. Let's be serious. Do you think that ANYONE bothered to study the market before this gem came out? Do you think ANYONE bother to ask Gallaci or Zimmerman if a bunny in space story would survive on today's market? I just hope Saki was paid up front for this, because in a market that is being overrun by images of others superheroes the Mirage name on this book won't help its' sales much.

Give it some thought, fanboys...

Music reviews continued

Now we all know of the attitude of Skid Row and its front man S. Bach, but get real, they walked off of the stage because a security woman gave him the bird after he made a rude comment at her. The band soon returned to the show and finished. How childish can one get. We have rumors flying about who will be the new front man for Motley Crew. We may have the lead singer of Extreme, or John Corabi of The Scream, but the best one is that Vince may return after their differences have been worked out. I do hope so, though this may very well turn into a publicity stunt which would suck. On the heals of this parting of talent comes news that Anthrax has fired Joey Belladonna for a better singer to record on their multi-million dollar contract with Elektra. Maybe Joey can try out for Vinces spot.

On to my biggest bitch. What the hell is wrong with a world that allows a great song like Bohemian Rhapsody to go gold for a second time based on a lame ass movie like Waynes World. Come on, if it was a tribute to Freddy Mercury it would be one thing , but not on account of this movie and one sequence of film. This disgusts me, even though Queen is one of my all time favorite bands, I can't stand the fact that fans have done this shit. Raise your hands for Freddy and others who have lost their lives to the Aids diseases, not to a film that was only made for money and not life in general and enjoyment like Queens music was. Well that's all this time. Remember, write in tell me your views, and I will tell you if your boxer shorts are to tight or to loose.

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